

MINUTES
June 21, 2019

A meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions was called to order by Chairman Richard McCoy at 8:31 a.m., Friday, June 21, 2019, at Crystal City Hall, 4141 Douglas Drive North, Crystal, MN.

Present were: Mitchell Robinson, Brooklyn Park; Todd Tuominen, Champlin; Mark Ray, Crystal; Derek Asche, Maple Grove; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Richard McCoy, Robbinsdale; Ed Matthiesen and Diane Spector, Wenck Associates, Inc.; and Judie Anderson, JASS.

Also present: Alex Larson and Katerina Meybaum, Plymouth; and Marta Roser, Robbinsdale.

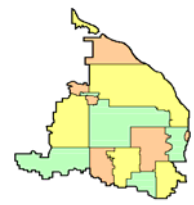
Not represented: Brooklyn Center, Minneapolis, New Hope, and Osseo.

- I. Motion by Ray, second by Asche to **approve the agenda.*** *Motion carried unanimously.*
- II. Motion by Ray, second by Asche to **approve the minutes***of the May 30, 2019 meeting. *Motion carried unanimously.*
- III. **Proposed Minor Plan Amendment for Capital Equipment.** The Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions share the cost of watershed-priority capital improvements and demonstration projects through the Commissions' Capital Improvements Program (CIP). High-priority watershed capital improvements are those activities that go above and beyond general or routine city management activities to provide a significant improvement to the water resources in the watershed. The draft Cost Share Policy* presented by Staff establishes the basis for and amount of Commission contribution to qualifying projects.

A. Capital Improvements.

High priority activities that result in Wasteload Allocation reductions toward a TMDL, help solve a regional flooding problem, or are otherwise determined by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Commissions to be high priority are eligible to receive up to 25 percent of the final improvement cost in Commission cost-share, funded by the county ad valorem tax levied on all property in the watershed. The balance of the improvement cost, less any grant or other funds received, must be funded by the local government(s) participating in or benefiting from the improvement. *The Commissions' minimum share is \$50,000. There is no maximum share; the maximum is limited by the amount the Commission is willing/able to certify as a levy.*

Eligible improvements include both structural and nonstructural activities. Routine maintenance or localized improvements are not eligible for cost share. Capital equipment that has been demonstrated to reduce loading of TMDL pollutants such as TP, TSS, or chloride may be eligible if: 1) the equipment is new or an upgrade and not simply a replacement of existing equipment; 2) the equipment is to allow the member city to undertake a new load-reducing activity; and 3) use of the equipment for this load reductions must be supported by academic or governmental research. Only the incremental cost of such upgrades would be eligible for cost share.



B. Activities of Watershed-Wide Benefit.

The capital cost of activities addressing TMDL Load Allocation reductions and projects of watershed-side benefit may be funded 100 percent by the ad valorem tax levy. Examples of these types of activities include:

1. Lake Internal Load Reduction Actions
 - a. Alum treatments
 - b. Rough fish management
 - c. With Hennepin County and DNR concurrence, initial, whole-lake invasive aquatic vegetation management treatments performed for water quality, excluding those for recreation, aesthetics, or navigation
2. Stream Internal Load Reduction Activities
 - a. Channel narrowing or creation of a low-flow channel to reduce sediment oxygen demand
 - b. Projects to increase DO at wetland outlets
3. Non-TMDL Parameters (actions required by TMDLs not associated with a pollutant for which a numerical reduction of improvement can be specified)
 - a. Restoration or enhancement of in-stream habitat
 - b. Increases in channel roughness to enhance DO
 - c. Removal or bypass of barriers to connectivity
 - d. Streambank restoration below the top of the bank
4. Other Watershed Benefiting Improvements as Recommended by the TAC

C. Guidelines

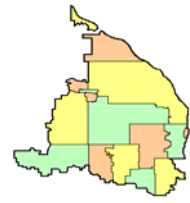
1. Capital improvements must be for water quality or ecological integrity improvement, and must be for improvement above and beyond what would be required to meet Commission rules or common practice. Only the cost of “upsizing” a BMP above and beyond is eligible.
2. Routine maintenance activities are not eligible.
3. The effectiveness of any proposed nonstructural improvements must be supported by literature or academic/practitioner experience and documentation.
4. The applicant must agree to document the effectiveness of any proposed nonstructural improvements and report those results to the Commissions for at least five years.
5. The standard Commission/Member Cooperative Agreement will be executed prior to BMP implementation. This Agreement will specify the type and adequacy of effectiveness reporting.

The members discussed and tweaked the language of the draft policy.

Motion by Ray, second by Scharenbroich directing Staff to move forward the policy with the proposed revisions to the Commissioners’ July 11, 2019 meeting and to initiate a Minor Amendment to their Watershed Management Plan to incorporate the policy. *Motion carried unanimously.*

IV. Minneapolis Subwatershed Assessment.* The Shingle Creek Commission and the City of Minneapolis initiated a subwatershed assessment (SWA) to identify pollutant load reduction opportunities for that part of the City located within the watershed, focusing on total suspended solids (TSS) and total phosphorus (TP) reductions.

The assessment area discharges into Ryan and Crystal lakes and Shingle Creek. Crystal Lake and Shingle Creek are Impaired Waters. Ryan Lake has recently been removed from the state’s list of Impaired Waters due to improved water quality and is now a Protection Water. Currently the assessment area



generates an estimated total annual load of 520,876 lbs. of TSS and 1,834 lbs. of TP. Priority areas for load reduction were identified based on the City's knowledge, pipeshed loadings per acreage, land use, parcel ownership and road construction plans. Implementation of these BMPs not only focuses on pollutant load reduction, but also aims to provide aesthetic value for the area.

Land use in the study area is largely residential, with some commercial/industrial and institutional uses. The density of the development leaves very limited space for large stormwater infrastructure. Due to space limitation, it was typically not possible to design the stormwater BMPs to treat the first 1.1 inches of runoff from drainage area impervious surfaces. Most of the proposed BMPs are either retrofits of existing structures or can be completed with planned road reconstruction.

Common stormwater BMPs considered in this exercise were stormwater ponds, tree trenches, raingardens, and iron-enhanced sand filters. There is limited soil data in the area, so significant infiltration practices were generally not considered. In addition, favorable locations in proximity to Shingle Creek may have high groundwater tables that also would prevent the use of infiltration.

Section 4 of the report provides detailed information for each identified BMP, including location, drainage area, initial investment cost, 30-year lifecycle cost, cost benefit for pollutant removal, and potential. (*Table 2-1 will be restated.*)

Spector reminded the members that the BWSR Competitive Grant expires at the end of this year. She also noted that a community meeting must be held prior to completion of the project.

V. Ten Things Brochure.* The brochure has been completed and printed and WMWA members have received about 10,000 copies printed at no charge by Hennepin County. The brochure can be found at shinglecreek.org/uploads/5/7/7/6/57762663/2019_ten_things_final.pdf. Fifty copies for each city are provided at this meeting. Additional copies can be requested from the administrative office.

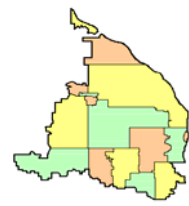
VI. Lake Conditions.

A. Recent Fish Kills. Included in the meeting packet is an Information Release* addressing reports of fish kills, high water and green algal surface mats in metro area waters. The release informs the public that the likely cause of these phenomena is the unusual spring weather that has occurred coincidental with fish spawning and the early days of submerged aquatic vegetation growth.

With vegetation growth not yet fully underway, all those extra nutrients were taken up by filamentous algae which has become very abundant on several lakes and floated to the surface. This algal growth also uses up large amounts of oxygen dissolved in the shallow waters. Fish that moved into the lake shallows looking for spawning grounds were then faced with depleted oxygen on top of the stress of spawning. For many fish the conditions were too stressful and they did not survive.

Commission staff have consulted with both the DNR East and West Metro Area Fisheries Supervisors who agreed with this assessment of spring conditions. They also added that it is typical of a natural fish disease (*Columnaris*) to cause added stress in the spring, which may have also contributed to fish kills in many area lakes. Though this year produced the perfect storm of events, it is not expected to have long-lasting effects. There are thousands more fish within the lakes to replenish populations, the submerged vegetation will continue to grow, the surface algae will die back, and the water levels will continue to fall as spring dries out into summer. This item will be included on the Commission's July agenda.

B. Lake No-Wake Declarations. The members discussed the high-water levels in watershed lakes and how no-wake declarations are set. It was noted that the Hennepin County Sheriff does not set or publish the declarations and, in most instance, neither do the cities. Most agreed that a flag system at



boat launch areas works best to inform boat operators of no-wake conditions. It was also agreed that this information should not be posted to the Commissions' website.

VIII. Other Business.

A. Members discussed a letter being crafted by the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission to the MPCA asking what it will take to **include new BMPs in the Stormwater Manual** -- what test or process to evaluate those new BMPs prior to inclusion. There was a consensus to coordinate with the BCWMC in this process, if they are agreeable. This item will be included on the Commission's July agenda.

B. Matthiesen met with MnDOT regarding the upcoming **Highway 252/I-94 project**. Preliminary design will be completed in 2022. He inquired whether the members would like this project to be included on future TAC agendas. It was agreed to keep the process at the city level. MnDOT is starting a multi-year project to add lanes, remove at-grade access and build bridges and ramps.

C. The **next meeting** of the Technical Advisory Committee is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., Thursday, July 25, 2019, Crystal City Hall.

D. The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judie A. Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Judie A. Anderson
Recording Secretary

Z:\Shingle Creek\TAC\2019 TAC\06-21 2019 minutes.docx